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PARISETTE

MAY 19 1922

Second episode - The secret of Mme. Stefan.

While the Banker Stefan fluttered round, his wife, Juliette, lonely and sad, thought how she had become Mme. Stefan, when the Banker proposed her she was a typist in his Bank, she asked Cogolin's advice and confided to him, for she had a secret. She had been engaged to be married to a young man who had been killed in the War. A girl child was born of their love and was being brought up, secretly, in the country. Could she tell Stefan of it, or no? Cogolin solved the problem by adopting the child and giving her to the care of a War Widow, Mme. Melanie Parent; to whom he gave his name as "Bourgeois" and being uncle of the little one, whom he said was an orphan. Matters arranged in this manner marriage became possible. The Stefan were giving an evening party on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of their wedding. Juliette knew, now, but a shadow of her dreamed happiness; her husband deserted her for others and was also very much engaged by his business, latterly, especially with a rich Portuguese, The Marquess Joaquim da Constabella.

Those painful reminiscences woke up in her heart the desire to see her little daughter- she asked Cogolin to accompany her to Gargan that afternoon to which he assented readily. It was decided they would go soon after lunch, which lunch soon came to an end for the fact that Parisette too occupied in practising new dancing steps under the direction of her fiancé, Jean Vernier, had let it burn. Cogolin told Parisette he had had a rise at the Bank and informed her he was going in the country but would take her to the Stefan's evening party, he then left her giving her his recommendations.

Cogolin had a neighbour, a Mr. Lapusse whom; helped by his clerk, Joseph, alias Binoclard, was a business man ... of a shady kind. The curious nature of this Mr. Lapusse manifested itself in various ways, betwixt others, by making a hole in the wall which enabled him to hear all that passed next door, thinking he might likely profit by his indiscretions.

As Cogolin passed the Porter's room a letter was given him addressed to Mr. Jules Bourgeois, it was from Melanie Parent telling him that little Lulu was ill and asking him not to fail to come on the following Saturday.

Just a few minutes after the departure of Cogolin and Parisette Mr. Lapusse summoned Binoclard "go in Joseph, time's come". The latter stepped over the window into Cogolin's room, took his uniform and came back the same way "perfect?" said Mr. Lapusse let's go now".

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